

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10457 251221Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
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R 251135Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4938  
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY  
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 10457

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ENRG, IN  
SUBJECT: INDIAN PRESS REPORTS CONGRESS DISAGREES WITH PRESIDENT  
CARTER'S POLICY ON BREEDER REACTORS

1. THE "INDIAN EXPRESS" AND "TIMES OF INDIA" JULY 25 EACH  
FEATURE ARTICLES FROM THEIR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS  
ON DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT  
CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF BREEDER REACTORS. T.V.  
PARASURAM, WRITING IN THE "INDIAN EXPRESS", STATES THAT  
THE DEBATE OVER BREEDERS IS OF "CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE TO  
ENERGY-SHORT INDIA", WHICH HAS THE POSSIBILITY OF  
SOLVING ITS ENERGY PROBLEM IF BREEDERS USING THORIUM ARE  
PROVEN FEASIBLE AND ECONOMICAL. PARASURAM REVIEWS THE  
BREEDER REACTOR PROGRAMS IN FRANCE, THE USSR, BRITAIN,  
THE US, JAPAN AND WEST GERMANY. WHILE PRESIDENT CARTER  
SEEKS TO DELAY THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL BREEDERS,  
CONGRESS REPORTEDLY BELIEVES THE UNITED STATES, WHICH  
IS BEHIND OTHER COUNTRIES, CAN AND SHOULD CATCH UP.  
PARASURAM CITES DR. BENEDICT OF M.I.T. AS BELIEVING  
THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S FEARS ABOUT PROLIFERATION  
BECAUSE OF BREEDER TECHNOLOGY ARE "BASELESS." BENEDICT  
ARGUES THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO DEVISE A SYSTEM OF  
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 10457 251221Z

SAFEGUARDS THAT WOULD BE NEARLY FOOLPROOF, SUCH THAT  
THE REPROCESSED FUEL RODS WOULD NOT BE USEABLE FOR  
WEAPONS. PARASURAM OBSERVES THAT IN COMPARISON TO  
NUCLEAR R AND D, THE AMOUNTS SPENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT  
OF SOLAR ENERGY ARE SMALL. SOLAR ENERGY STILL TENDS TO  
BE VIEWED, ACCORDING TO PARASURAM, "AS EXOTIC WHEN IT  
COMES TO LARGE-SCALE USE."

2. "TIMES OF INDIA" CORRESPONDENT M.V. KAMATH REPORTS  
THE FINDINGS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY, WHICH ARE CRITICAL OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S  
ANTI-BREEDER POLICY. THE COMMITTEE IS SAID TO HAVE  
REPORTED THE CONSENSUS OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THAT THE  
US IS FIVE TO EIGHT YEARS BEHIND IN BREEDER REACTOR  
TECHNOLOGY, WITH THE GAP WIDENING. GIVEN ITS RESERVES  
OF URANIUM, THE COMMITTEE SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES  
"IS LOOKED UPON AS HAVING MOTIVES OF SELF-INTEREST,  
PARTICULARLY BY DEVELOPING NATIONS WHICH MUST SUSTAIN  
HIGH ENERGY GROWTH RATES WITH LIMITED DOMESTIC RESOURCES  
OF ENERGY." KAMATH CONCLUDES THAT SOME CYNICS  
INTERPRET U.S. OPPOSITION TO BREETER REACTORS AS  
"TACTICAL MOVES TO PREVENT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES  
FROM MAKING PROGRESS IN THE BREEDER FIELD, ESPECIALLY  
SINCE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE WAY AHEAD OF THE USA  
IN BREEDER TECHNOLOGY."GOHEEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INDIAN PRESS REPORTS CONGRESS DISAGREES WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICY ON BREEDER REACTORS  
**TAGS:** ENRG, IN, US  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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